

# REMINISCENCES; PEOPLE (Gullifer)

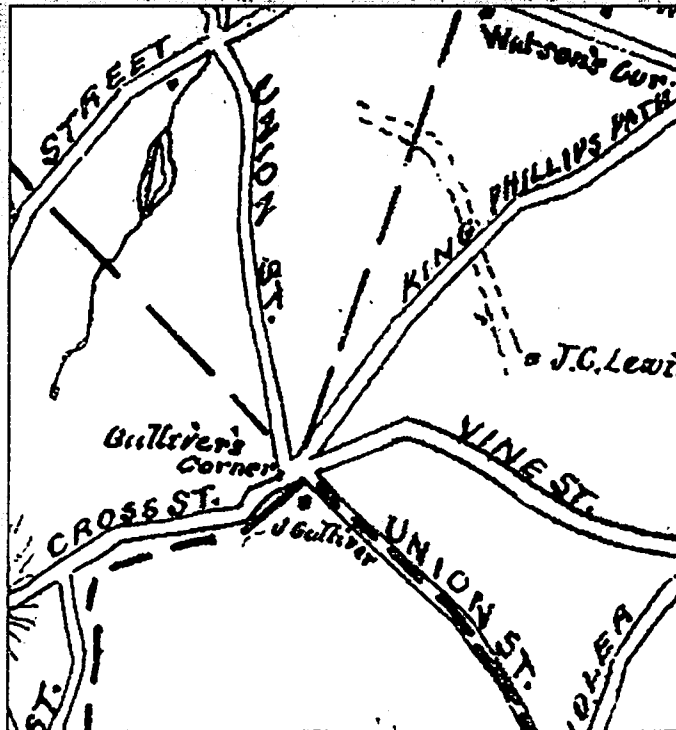
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## Remembering a forgotten roadway



By TONY KELSO

**D**oes anyone still remember where Gullifer's corner is? I have always wondered about that funny four street intersection where Vine and Cross Streets meet Union Bridge Road and King Phillips Path. The streets all seem to come together haphazardly. The intersection seems so isolated, despite the recent houses built nearby. It is a corner that has existed from at least the early 1800s. It likely existed even earlier than that time since it was part of the old Cedar Swamp way that lead from the ponds and Great Cedar Swamp in Pembroke to the coastline.

On the map of Duxbury of 1833, a family named Gullifer lived at the intersection on the east side of what is today Cross Street. There was only one other farm nearby; otherwise the Gullifer farm was quite alone. The surrounding land was cleared down to Route 53/Summer Street in 1833, but on the other four sides of the Gullifer farm the woods pressed up to the corner and were thick and dense. Although this intersection was isolated in the 1830s, it was the meeting place of the road from Marshfield to Pembroke and the road from East Pembroke to Kingston and Plymouth.

I have not learned much about the Gullifer family except that they were in Duxbury from at least 1712. John Gullifer was the last Gullifer to live near Gullifer's Corner and he lived on the farm until 1894. He apparently was the last to run the Howland sawmill down on Phillips brook at Happy Valley. Later families in the Gullifer house at the intersection were the Landrys and its final owner was Joseph Watson. The Gullifer house disappeared in 1974 and the 16-acre Gullifer farm is now where Colonial and Pioneer Drive neighborhoods are built.

Incidentally, Union Bridge Road gets its name because that road and then Union Street lead to the North River where the Union Bridge is in Hanover. This was part of the old way that started in Bridgewater and lead to the North River shipyards and then further north towards Boston.

The Gullifer name and their house may have passed into oblivion in Duxbury, with the only visual reminders being a clump of lilacs and some old cedars near the intersection. But Gullifer's Corner still has the feeling of lonely roads meeting in the woods, and it is a good name to revive for that odd five-way intersection.

*This column is reprinted from 2003.*